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Coca-Cola SOCCEROOS

SOCCER AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA v JAPAN

INSIDE

All the Stars , Stats, and more!

Eddie Thomson Speaks Out

So you wannabe a referee?

Milan Blagojevic - What's he *REALLY* like?

PLUS - It's not just a man's world

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

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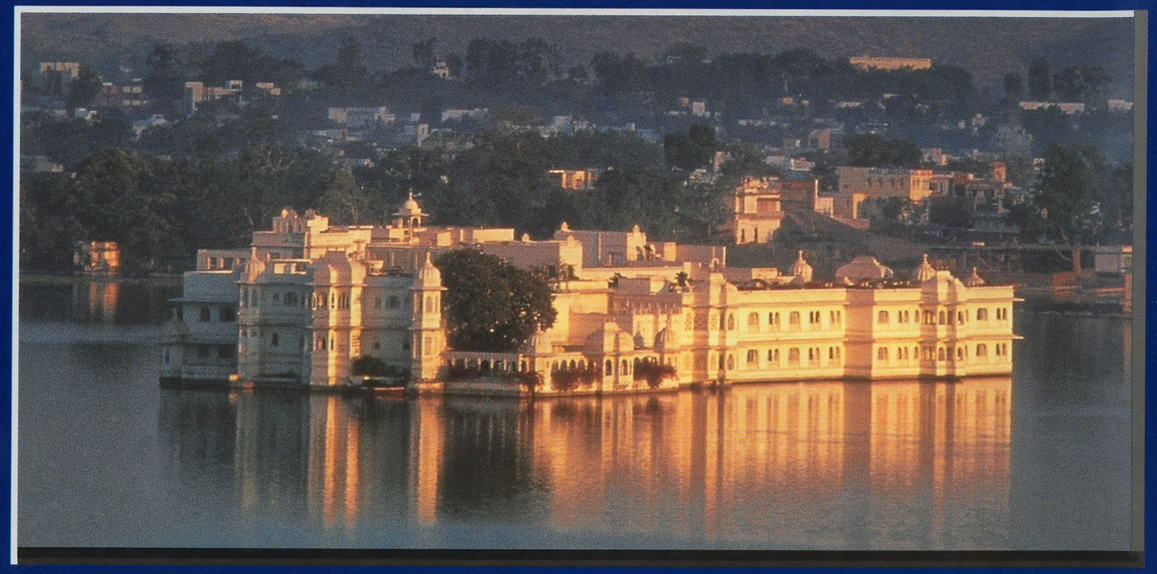

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Chairman's Message

Countdown 98 *has begun. In addition to focusing our energy on qualifying the* Coca-Cola *Socceroos for the World Cup every game we play is vital to the position of the* Coca-Cola *Socceroos in the FIFA World Rankings. The more games we are able to play improves our ranking and in turn our position in the World Cup draw when we qualify.*

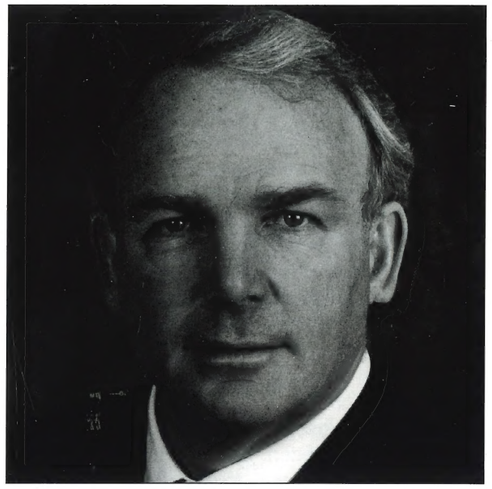
We welcome to our shores, for the first of the 12 projected home Internationals, our friendly rivals, Japan. It is appropriate that we should meet this year, which is an Olympic anniversary, as we first played them during the days of our full amateurism in the 1956 Olympic Games which were held in Melbourne.

We have met on numerous other occasions in a common ambition to produce teams of World Cup standard and Japan is aiming at hosting the Soccer World Cup in the year 2002.

The two matches are also being played on grounds which have not previously had the privilege of hosting international matches of this level. The first match at Brandon Park will give the people of Wollongong the chance to view soccer at one of the highest levels. This will be followed by breaking ground at the new Bob Jane Stadium in Melbourne.

Our enthusiasm is not only for the *Coca-Cola* Socceroos but we have demonstrated with the *Coca-Cola* Olyroos that our prospects are excellent for progression to the Olympic Games in Atlanta. The road is hard and the opposition to be met will be much stronger than the Oceania elimination tournament.

Further development amongst our junior teams is always to the forefront and we anticipate great things in the future.



None of this would be possible without the support of our sponsors. Soccer Australia is supported by numerous sponsors who have been of enormous benefit to soccer in Australia. We express our gratitude particularly to the *Coca-Cola* Company, the Australian Sports Commission, Ericsson Australia, Ansett Australia, Optus Communications, addidas, and United Distillers (Johnnie Walker). Their support is essential to our future success.

Finally we would like to express Soccer Australia's appreciation of all the supporters of the *Coca-Cola* Socceroos and *Coca-Cola* Olyroos. They have come out in force for all the national team's matches over the past years. This vital component is essential for the growth of Australian soccer.

David Hill
Chairman, Soccer Australia

Brandon Park Stadium, Wollongong — hosts its inaugural Australian Soccer International.

Japan Football Association

It is a pleasure as always to welcome, again, to these shores the Japan Football Association with whom much of our soccer history runs in parallel.

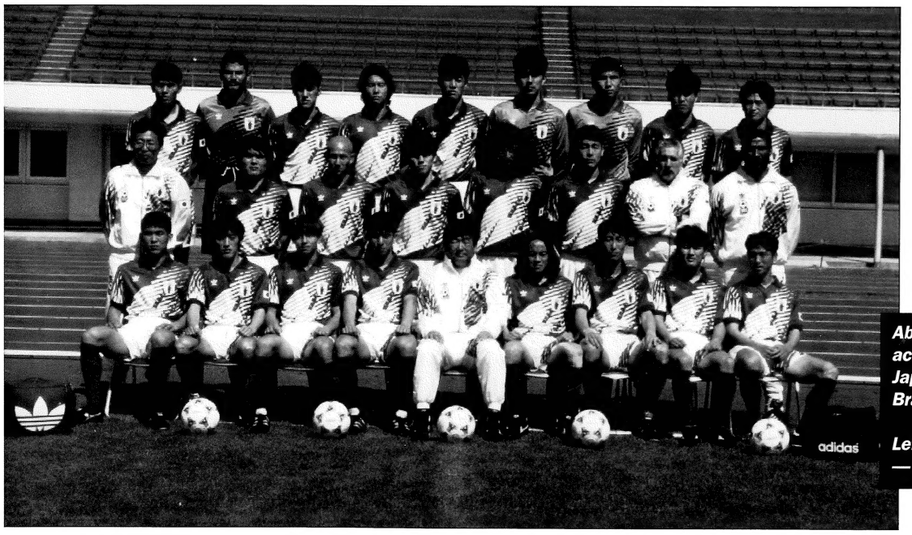
The origins of Japanese football are said to date back to 1873 when the game was introduced by an Englishman, Lieutenant Commander Douglas.

However, unlike Australia, it wasn't until 1921 that Japan formed a league. Equally it was only 15 years later in 1936 when Japan sent its National team to the Olympic Games in Berlin. They scored an upset victory over Sweden. By 1964 they were able to produce another unexpected result, though much deserved, when they reached the quarter-finals of the Tokyo Olympic Games in 1964.

To prove that the development was continuing, the Japanese team won the bronze medal at the Mexico Olympic Games in 1968.

Like Australia, Japanese Football was completely amateur and it was only the introduction of the famous J-League and professionalism which began the real upsurge, and the determination to host a World Cup in the year 2002. This upsurge in interest was not only confined to the domestic soccer scene, but the national stadium is filled each year with an excess of 60,000 supporters, usually a sell-out, for the Toyota Cup, a match held to determine the number one club team in the world. Capacity crowds have also been achieved for various visiting clubs from overseas. As always, a lot of the progress hinges on the development on the youth of the country and as each year goes by more and more junior teams are being filled and are vying for positions which will eventually lead them into the national team.

Australia have now played Japan on nine occasions for one win to Japan, four draws and four wins to Australia. The teams first met at the Melbourne Olympic Games on 27 November 1956 when Australia were victorious by 2 goals to nil. It was not for another 12 years that the teams met again in a friendly series played in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. This series was shared with one win to each of the countries and a 2-all draw in Sydney.



Above: Kazuyoshi Miura, Japanese ace striker who has returned to Japan after playing professionally in Brazil and Italy's Serie A.

Left: The Japanese National Team — 1995.

The Japanese Football Association points out that it has in excess of 18,000 women players and they have already played many international matches. Japan's aim is to be become in the shortest possible time one of the world's leading soccer nations which will further assist them in their application to hold the World Cup in Japan in the year 2002.

The current visiting Japanese squad has many players who have travelled to Australia before, including Akita, Ihara, Moriyasu, Kitazawa, Kikuchi, Yamaguchi, Nakamura and Yanagimoto.

It is particularly interesting to note that amongst the internationals the most capped is Masami Ihara with 82 appearances.

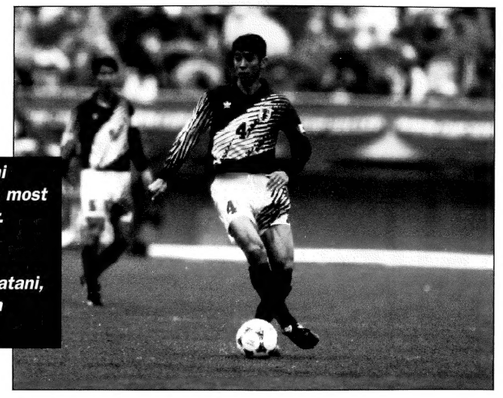
ALL TIME RESULTS vs AUSTRALIA

DATE	RESULT	VENUE	COMPETITION	GOALS
27/11/56	Lost 0-2	Melbourne (Australia)	Melbourne Olympic Games	
30/3/68	Draw 2-2	Sydney (Australia)	Friendly	Kamamoto 2
31/3/68	Lost 1-3	Melbourne (Australia)	Friendly	Y. Kuwabara
4/4/68	Won 3-1	Adelaide (Australia)	Friendly	Kamamoto 2 Sugiyama
10/10/69	Lost 1-3	Seoul (Rep. Korea)	World Cup Mexico '70 Qualifications	Watanabe
16/10/69	Draw 1-1	Hiroshima (Japan)	World Cup Mexico '70 Qualifications	T. Miyamoto
22/5/94	Draw 1-1	Tokyo (Japan)	Kirin Cup '94	Asano
27/9/94	Draw 0-0	Tokyo (Japan)	Friendly	
15/2/95	Lost 1-2	Sydney (Australia)	Friendly	Hasegawa

(Total Games vs Australia — 9, 1 Win, 4 Losses, 4 Draws)

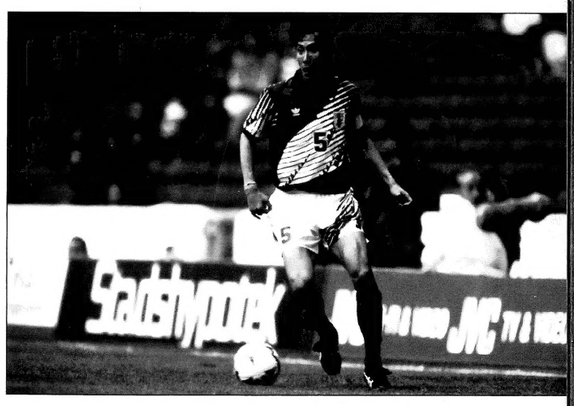
JAPAN — MATCH RESULTS — SINCE OCTOBER 1994

DATE	RESULT	OPPONENT	VENUE	COMPETITION
9.1.94	Won 5-0	Myanmar	Hiroshima	12th Asian Games
9.10.94	Won 5-0	Myanmar	Hiroshima	12th Asian Games
15.2.95	Lost 1-2	Australia	Sydney (Australia)	Friendly
26.2.95	Won 2-2 (Pen. 5-3)	Rep. Korea	Hong Kong	3rd Dynasty Cup
3.6.95	Lost 1-2	England	Wembley	Umbro Cup
10.6.95	Draw 2-2	Sweden	Nottingham	Umbro Cup
6.6.95	Won 3-0	Costa Rica	Kyota	Friendly
9.8.95	Lost 1-5	Brazil	Tokyo	Friendly
24.10.95	Won 2-1	Saudi Arabia	Tokyo	Friendly
28.10.95	Won 2-1	Saudi Arabia	Matsuyama	Friendly
28.10.95	Won	Saudi Arabia	Matsuyama	Friendly



Right: Masami Ihara, Japan's most capped player.

Far Right: Tetsuji Hashiratani, National Team captain.



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Japan Officials

HEAD COACH: Shu Kamo
ASST. COACH: Takeshi Okada
PHYSICAL COACH:
Luis Flavio Ribsiro Buongermino
GK COACH: Jose Mario Soares Do Prado
DOCTOR: Touru Fukubayashi
MASSEUR: Yutaka Tokuhiro
MASSEUR: Masaaki Mano
NUTRITION ADVISER: Chiaki Urakami
ADMIN. OFFICER: Susumu Murano
ASST. SECRETARY: Keita Yamashita
EQUIPMENT MANAGER: Tatsuo Endo
PRESS OFFICER: Hideki Kato

SHU KAMO
Head Coach
Date of Birth:
October 29, 1939
Age: 55
Nationality: Japanese
Date of Appointment:
December 1994

After graduating from Kwansei Gakuin University, Shu Kamo joined the Yanmar Diesel Engine Co. Ltd. and became a member of their football club. In 1967 he started coaching Yanmar SC and led the team to be champions of the Emperor's Cup in 1968, 1970 and the Japan Soccer League in 1971. He majored in the First FIFA Coaching School in 1969. He began coaching Nissan FC in 1979, which was in the Kanagawa Prefectural League, leading the team to become champions of the Emperor's Cup in 1983. In 1988 the team won all three titles: the Emperor's Cup, Japan Soccer League and JSI Cup. In 1990, Shu Kamo started as coach of ANA FC (now Yokohama Flugels) and won the Emperor's Cup in 1994 which was its first title since joining the J-League.

TAKESHI OKADA
Coach
Date of Birth:
August 25, 1956
Age: 38
Nationality: Japanese
Date of Appointment:
December 1994.

Highly regarded as a prominent player during his high school years, Takeshi Okada played in the national youth team and the Universidade national team. After his studies at the Waseda University, he joined Furukawa Electric Co. Ltd in 1980 and became a member of Furukawa FC where he had the experience of being JSL Cup champions twice, champion of the Japan Soccer League and winning the Asian Club Championship, etc. He appeared in a total of 189 games. He also appeared in 26 International 'A' matches including the Los Angeles Olympic Games qualifiers and Mexico World Cup qualifers.

MATCH RECORDS UNDER KAMO

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	VENUE	COMPETITION	GOAL SCORERS
6-1-95	Nigeria	Lost 0-3	Riyadh	Intercontinental Championship	
8-1-95	Argentina	Lost 1-5	Riyadh	Intercontinental Championship	Kazu
15-2-95	Australia	Lost 1-2	Sydney	Friendly	Hasegawa
19-2-95	Hong Kong	Won 33-0	Hong Kong	Dynasty Cup	Kurosaki 2 Hashiratani
21-2-95	Rep. Korea	Draw 1-1	Hong Kong	Dynasty Cup	Kurosaki
23-2-95	Pr. China	Won 2-1	Hong Kong	Dynasty Cup	Fujita, Kurosaki
26-2-95	Rep. Korea	Won 2-2 (Pen. 5-3)	Hong Kong	Dynasty Cup	Fukuda, Yamacuchi
21-5-95	Scotland	Draw 0-0	Hiroshima	Kirin Cup	
28-5-95	Ecuador	Won 3-0	Tokyo	Kirin Cup	Kazu 2 Nakayama
3-6-95	England	Lost 1-2	Wembley	Umbro Cup	Ihara
6-6-95	Brazil	Lost 0-3	Goodison Park	Umbro Cup	
10-6-95	Sweden	Draw 2-2	City Ground	Umbro Cup	Fujita, Kurosaki
5-8-95	Costa Rica	Won 3-0	Kyoto	Friendly	Nanmi Kukuda, Kitazawaa
9-8-95	Brazil	Lost 1-5	Tokyo	Friendly	Fukuda
20-9-95	Paraguay	Lost 1-2	Tokyo	Friendly	Kazu
24-10-95	Saudi Arabia	Won 2-1	Tokyo	Friendly	Nanami, Kazu
28-10-95	Saudi Arabia	Won 2-1	Matsuyama	Friendly	Kazu, Akita

(Total Games — 17 Wins — 7 Draws — 3 Losses — 7 GF — 25 GA — 30)

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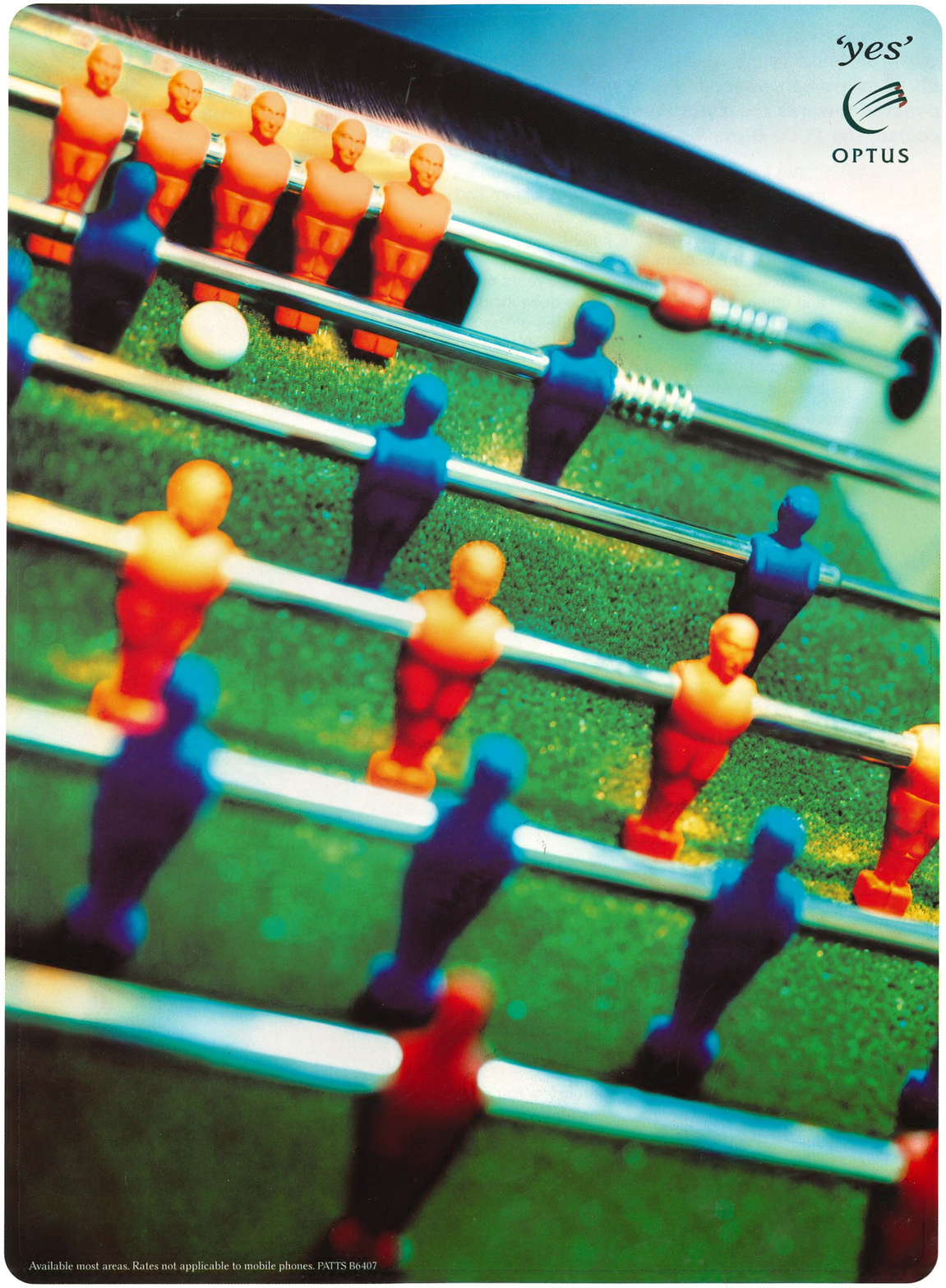

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A New Direction for Australian Women's Soccer

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Having narrowly missed out on qualification for next year's Atlanta Olympics, the focus of women's soccer's elite program is now directed towards the 1999 World Cup and, of course, the 2000 Olympics.

Two key components of the new direction are the Intensive Training Centre (ITC) Program and an extensive number of training camps and tours for the National Elite Squad.

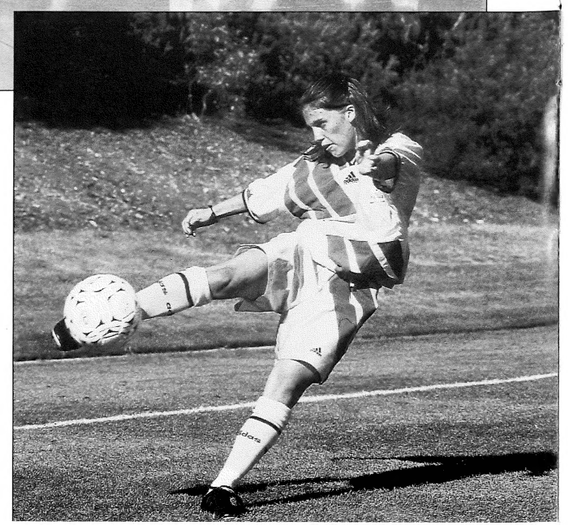
Six ITCs have been established around Australia catering for players 15-20 years of age and other older players who have been included in the national squad. The objectives of the program are to identify future national team players at the same time as providing an elite training environment in their home state. The preliminary match, in Wollongong, sees two of the stronger states in women's soccer, NSW and the ACT, meet in what should be a close and exciting game.

During the week 11-15 February, a National Youth Squad will be in camp in Melbourne in preparation for the game against the Victorian State team. Whilst at the camp, players will undergo extensive training and sports science testing, educational lectures and a number of games – all designed to assist the National Coach, Tom Sermanni, identify players for future national team activities and a possible tour to the United States in May/June.

All the above is made viable through financial support from the Australian Sports Commission and the Australian Olympic Committee through the Olympic Athlete Program, and the Australian Women's Soccer Association (AWSA) thanks them for their continued support.

The AWSA would also like to thank Soccer Australia, the Illawarra Soccer Association/ Wollongong Wolves Soccer Club and the Victorian Soccer Federation/South Melbourne Soccer Club for the assistance and co-operation received in the staging of these matches and we look forward to future ventures of a similar nature.

The Australian Women's National Soccer Squad pictured with the Socceroos prior to their recent trip to Japan.



Women's Squads

ACT ITC v NSW ITC
Brandon Park Stadium, Wollongong — 5.45pm
10 February 1996

	ACT ITC	NSW ITC
Shirt:	Green, blue and gold trim	Sky blue
Shorts:	Green, blue and gold trim	Navy blue
Socks:	White	White

	ACT ITC	NSW ITC
1.	Tory Turner	Karen Lawes
2.	Dior Foxhill	Bronwyn Boland
3.	Sacha Wainwright	Gillian Thomson
4.	Amanda Butler	Maria Calligas
5.	Danica Ralston	Renee Bevan
6.	Amy Taylor	Bridget Harries
7.	Amy Wilson	Joanne Peters
8.	Angie Bean	Kelly Golebiowski
9.	Karly Pumpa	Katrina Boyd
10.	Cindy Doyle	Nicole Davis
11.	Danielle Hepperlin	Lisa Collins
12.	Melissa de Ryck	Amanda Boyle
13.	Sam Sheedy	Danielle Clarke
14.	Pete-Claire Hepperlin	Danielle Smith
15.	Felicity Cox	Sandra Stavrou
16.	Tracey Fluoro	Cassandra Kelly
18.	Amy Beattie	
Head Coach	Chris Tanzey	Tony Walmsley
Asst. Coach	Steve Hoszowski	Leigh Wardell
Scholarship Coach	Katrina Alexander	*Sports Trainer* Ron Jackson
Physiotherapist	Ed Hollis	*Manager* Debbie Fisher

VICTORIAN SELECT TEAM v AUSTRALIAN U/21 TEAM
Bob Jane Stadium, Melbourne — 5.30pm
14 February 1996

	VICTORIA	AUSTRALIA
Shirt:	Navy Blue	White
Shorts:	White	Green
Socks:	Navy Blue	White

	VICTORIA	AUSTRALIA *(First half)*	AUSTRALIA *(Second half)*
1.	Emma Bracken	Belinda Kitching	Belinda Barter
2.	Louisa Bisby	Dianne Alagich	Tracie McGovern
3.	Joanne Satier	Kristen Spinner	Bridgette Starr
4.	Denise Wright	Trudy Diamond	Louise McMurtrie
5.	Christina Tsamasiros	Kristyn Swaffer	Sarah Garven
6.	Daniela Digiammarco	Jackie Hadden	Kelly Polakow
7.	Lee-anne Hamilton	Tammie Thornton	Michelle Watson
8.	Kate Walker	Amy Wilson	Sarah Fitzgerald
9.	Jane Oakley	Kristy Moore	Cindy Doyle
10.	Nicky Leitch	Lisa Casagrande	Lisa Casagrande
11.	Debbie Nichols	Joanne Peters	Gill Thomson
12.	Leigh Terek		
13.	Kathy Zacharopoulos		
14.	Christina Sidirolopoulos		
15.	Roisin McGowan		
Coach	Jeff Olver	*National Coach*	Tom Sermanni
Manager	Theresa Dees	*Asst. Coaches*	Greg Brown, Jeff Olver
Sports Trainer	Michele Mitchell	*Coaches*	Leigh Wardell, Nicky Leitch, Jill Latimer
		Physiotherapist	Paul Hazel

REFEREES

ACT ITC v NSW ITC
Wollongong Stadium
10 February 1996

Referee:	Belinda Hartig
Linesman:	Ben Williams, Gavin Martin
4th Official:	Mary Young
Inspector:	George Dobbin

VICTORIAN SELECT TEAM v AUSTRALIAN U/21 TEAM
Bob Jane Stadium, Melbourne
14 February 1996

Referee:	Sheena Storrie
Linesmen:	Alex Watson, Lisa Mast
4th Official:	Jim Zafiriou
Inspector:	Colin Johns

Australia

FRANK JURIC

Date of Birth: 28-10-73
Position: Goalkeeper
Current Club: Melbourne Knights
Height: 193 cms
Weight: 91 kgs
National Appearances: 1
Goals: 0

Made his debut for the senior team Frank is another example of the strength of Australian goalkeeping. Frank partnered Vince Matassa at the 1993 World Youth Championship for the FIFA/*Coca-Cola* Cup held in Australia. Commanding in the air, Frank possesses a long kick. A good organiser around his goal mouth. A graduate of the Australian Institute of Sport.

JASON POLAK

Date of Birth: 9.01.68
Position: Midfielder
Current Club: Brisbane Striker
Height: 179 cms
Weight 78 kgs
A Internationals: 21
Goals: 1

Quality midfielder who is now starting to make his mark for the national team. Who will ever forget his wonderful solo effort to score against South Africa in a match at the Sydney Football Stadium last year? Skilful player and good to watch now with the Brisbane Strikers in the Ericsson Cup.

ALEX TOBIN

Date of Birth: 05-04-66
Position: Defender
Current Club: Adelaide City
Height: 190 cms
Weight: 80 kgs
A Internationals: 52
Goals: 1

A long standing member of the *Coca-Cola* Socceroos. A quiet achiever because he does his job so well you never seem to notice him much on the field. Made his debut for the *Coca-Cola* Socceroos as a substitute against IFK Gothenburg in January, 1988. Has marked some of the best strikers in the world – and finished on top. He is intelligent and friendly.

MILAN IVANOVIC

Date of Birth: 21-12-60
Position: Sweeper
Current Club: Adelaide City
Height: 187 cms
Weight: 80 kgs
A Internationals: 36
Goals: 0

Veteran campaigner but still a vital part of the *Coca-Cola* Socceroo squad. The former Red Star Belgrade player first represented Australia in 1991 against Czechoslovakia. Milan was voted 1990/91 Player of the Year in the Ericsson Cup. Everything he does on the field is touched with class. One of the most popular players in the game.

TONY POPOVIC

Date of Birth: 04-07-73
Position: Defender
Current Club: Sydney United
Height: 193 cms
Weight: 93 kgs
A Internationals: 8
Goals: 0

Has worked his way up through the ranks from the *Coca-Cola* Joeys (under 17s), *Coca-Cola* Young Socceroos (under 20s), *Coca-Cola* Olyroos (Barcelona Olympics) and now *Coca-Cola* Socceroos. Talented player who can be used as a sweeper, central defender or midfielder. One of the nice guys of the game.

PAUL WADE

Date of Birth: 20-03-63
Position Midfielder: (Captain)
Current Club: Canberra Cosmos
Height: 181 cms
Weight: 72 kgs
A Internationals: 77
Goals: 11

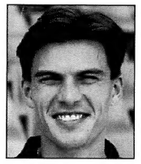
Australia's highest capped player. Made national team debut in 1986 against China. One of his highlights is marking Maradona – and doing a great job – in the two World cup qualifiers against Argentina in 1993. An inspiration to this team-mates and a credit to his country.

DAMIAN MORI

Date of Birth: 30-09-70
Position: Midfielder
Current Club: Adelaide City
Height: 185 cms
Weight: 85 kgs
A Internationals: 17
Goals: 2

A member of Australia's 1992 Olympic team, Damian is fast becoming a permanent member of the *Coca-Cola* Socceroo squad, with France 1998 his main objective. In Adelaide Damian Mori is a hero. His world class goal against Melbourne Knights gave Adelaide City the Championship, their third, in the 1993/94 Grand Final.

MILAN BLAGOJEVIC



Date of Birth: 24.12.69
Position: Defender/Midfielder
Current Club: UTS Olympic
Height: 163cms
Weight: 80kgs
A Internationals: 9
Goals: 0

One of the most talented players in the Ericsson Cup, Milan returned to Australia after stints in Belgium and Holland. Milan made his debut for the *Coca-Cola* Socceroos as a substitute in the President's Cup matches in South Korea in 1991. A member of the 1992 *Coca-Cola* Olyroos in their fourth placed effort at the Barcelona Olympics.

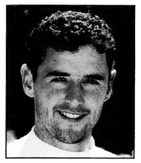
WARREN SPINK

Date of Birth: 04-10-66
Position: Striker
Current Club: Morwell Falcons
Height: 170 cms
Weight 72 kgs
A Internationals: 22
Goals: 8

Made his debut for Australia against New Zealand in Dunedin in 1988. One of the more experienced members of the *Coca-Cola* Socceroos, Warren has been on several tours with the National team, including the tour of North and South America in 1992.

Player Profiles

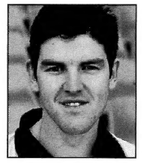
KEVIN MUSCAT



Date of Birth: 07-08-73
Position: Defender
Current Club: South Melbourne
Height: 181 cms
Weight: 75 kgs
A Internationals: 2
Goals: 0

Captain of the *Coca-Cola* Young Socceroos at the 1993 FIFA/*Coca-Cola* Cup and a regular starter with Ericsson Cup club South Melbourne. One of the toughest players in the League, Kevin brings experience and exceptional organisational skills to the team. Member of the *Coca-Cola* Olyroos, Australia's under 23 Olympic games qualifying team and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Sport.

JOE SPITERI



Date of Birth: 6.5.73
Position: Striker
Current Club: Melbourne Knights
Height: 178cms
Weight: 75kgs
A Internationals: 3
Goals: 1

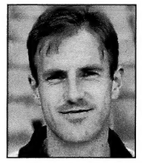
Joe's move last season to the Melbourne Knights to partner Mark Viduka developed into one of the most lethal strike forces last season. A good worker, Joe is able to finish chances effectively and is always hungry for goals. Scored one of the two goals in the Melbourne Knights Grand Final victory over Adelaide City.

JOHN MARKOVSKI

Date of Birth: 15-04-70
Position: Midfielder
Current Club: Morwell Falcons
Height: 186 cms
Weight: 95 kgs
A Internationals: 10
Goals: 1

A former *Coca-Cola* Olyroo, John is finally starting to show everyone that he is capable of matching it at this level. Rated one of the best players in the country. He might be big and strong but it does not detract from his skill and scoring ability. Has one of the hardest left-foot shots in the country. Recently joined Champions Melbourne Knights.

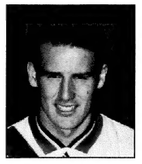
ROBERT HOOKER



Date of Birth: 6.3.67
Position: Defender
Current Club: West Adelaide
Height: 177cms
Weight: 71kgs
A Internationals: 3
Goals: 0

Captain of Ericsson Cup side West Adelaide. Robbie returns to the national team after making his debut against South Korea in 1990. Formerly with Ericsson Cup sides UTS Olympic and Sydney City, Robbie was a member of the 1985 *Coca-Cola* Young Socceroo side.

DOMINIC LONGO



Date of Birth: 23-8-70
Position: Defender
Current Club: Marconi Fairfield
Height: 184cms
Weight: 84kgs
A Internationals: 2
Goals: 0

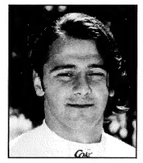
Originally from Tasmania, Dominic won a scholarship to the Australian Institute of Sport. After playing in the National League for Blacktown and St. George, Dominic won selection to the Australian *Coca-Cola* Joeys, *Coca-Cola* Young Socceroos and then the *Coca-Cola* Olyroos. After playing in Belgium for several years Dominic is back in Australia playing for Marconi Fairfield in the Ericsson Cup.

PAUL TRIMBOLI

Date of Birth: 25.2.69
Position: Striker
Current Club: South Melbourne
Height: 177cms
Weight: 85kgs
A Internationals: 13
Goals: 4

Paul makes his return to the senior team after a two year absence. A former scholarship holder at the Australian Institute of Sport, Paul represented the *Coca-Cola* Joeys as well as the *Coca-Cola* Young Socceroos. Made his debut with the *Coca-Cola* Socceroos in 1988, against Fiji. First played in the Ericsson Cup with Sunshine George Cross before joining his current club South Melbourne.

GORAN LOZANOVSKI



Date of Birth: 11-1-74
Position: Midfielder
Current Club: Adelaide City
Height: 182cms
Weight: 84kgs
A Internationals: 0
Goals: 0

A versatile player, Goran can utilise both feet with great skill. Goran possesses a powerful shot, with the ability to score goals from great distances. Formerly with Preston, Goran is now a regular with Adelaide City. A graduate of the Australian Institute of Sport. This is Goran's first appearance with the *Coca-Coca* Socceroos.

MATTHEW BINGLEY

Date of Birth: 16-8-71
Position: Defender
Current Club: Marconi Fairfield
Height: 181cms
Weight: 82kgs
A Internationals: 3
Goals: 0

Made his debut for the *Coca-Cola* Socceroos in their 1-0 loss to South Korea, last September, in Seoul. A member of the 1992/93 Championship winners Marconi-Fairfield side. Matthew was a member of the *Coca-Cola* Young Socceroos (under 20) who finished fourth in the World Youth Championship for the FIFA/*Coca-Cola* Cup in Portugal in 1991.

JASON PETKOVIC

Date of Birth: 7-12-72
Position: Goalkeeper
Current Club: Adelaide City
Height: 196cms
Weight: 85 kgs
A Internationals: 1
Goals: 0

The second of Eddie Thomson's new goalkeepers, Jason made his debut in the Ericsson Cup last season replacing former *Coca-Cola* Socceroo Robert Zabica. He is now the regular keeper for last year's Grand Finalists, Adelaide City. Jason is a further example of Australia's strength in goalkeeping.

AUSTRALIA v JAPAN

AUSTRALIA

No.	Player	Club	Wollongong	Melbourne
1	**Frank Juric**	Melbourne Knights		
2	**Jason Polak**	Brisbane Strikers		
3	**Alex Tobin**	Adelaide City		
4	**Milan Ivanonovic**	Adelaide City		
5	**Tony Popovic**	Sydney United		
6	**Paul Wade**	Canberra Cosmos		
7	**Damian Mori**	Adelaide City		
8	**Milan Blagojevic**	UTS Olympic		
9	**Warren Spink**	Morwell Falcons		
10	**Kevin Muscat**	South Melbourne		
11	**Joe Spiteri**	Melbourne Knights		
12	**John Markovski**	Melbourne Knights		
13	**Robert Hooker**	West Adelaide		
14	**Dominic Longo**	Marconi-Fairfield		
15	**Paul Trimboli**	South Melbourne		
16	**Goran Lozanovski**	Adelaide City		
17	**Matthew Bingley**	Marconi Fairfield		
18	**Jason Petkovic**	Adelaide City		
	Francis Awaritefe	Marconi-Fairfield		

MATCH OFFICIALS

First Match: 10 February 1996
Brandon Park
Wollongong

Referee: Brett Hugo
Linesmen: Gordon Dunster, Alex Spiroski
4th Official: Con Diomis
Inspector: Phil Hafey

Second Match: 14 February 1996
Bob Jane Stadium
Melbourne

Referee: Simon Micallef
Linesmen: Andy Stacey, Jeremy Blaney
4th Official: John Fraser
Inspector: Roger Lamb

TEAM COLOURS

Australia first choice strip:
Wattle yellow shirts with green trim;
Yellow shorts with green trim; yellow socks.

Australia second choice strip:
Blue and green shirts; blue shorts
with green trim; blue and green socks

Japan first choice strip:
Blue shirts; blue shorts; blue socks.

Japan second choice strip:
White shirts; blue shorts; white socks.

JAPAN

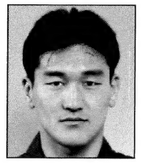
No.	Player	Club	Wollongong	Melbourne
1	**Kazuya Maekawa**	Sanfrecce Hiroshima		
2	**Yutaka Akita**	Kashima Antlers		
3	**Hiroshige Yanagimot**	Sanfrecce Hiroshima		
4	**Masami Ihara**	Yokohama Marinos		
6	**Motohiro Yamaguchi**	Yokohama Flugels		
7	**Hajime Moriyasu**	Sanfrecce Hiroshima		
8	**Tsuyoshi Kitazawa**	Verdy Kawasaki		
10	**Takuya Takagi**	Sanfrecce Hiroshima		
11	**Kazuyoshi Miura**	Verdy Kawasaki		
12	**Namki Soma**	Kashima Antlers		
13	**Kentaro Hayashi**	Verdy Kawasaki		
14	**Hiroshi Nanami**	Jubilo Iwata		
15	**Hiroaki Morishima**	Cerezo Osaka		
17	**Norio Omura**	Yokohama Marinos		
18	**Nasaharu Suzuki**	Yokohama Marinos		
19	**Nobuhuki Kojima**	Bellmare Hiratsuka		
20	**Shinkichi Kikuchi**	Verdy Kawasaki		
21	**Kentaro Sawada**	Kashiwa Reysol		
22	**Yasuto Honda**	Kashiwa Antlers		
23	**Tadashi Nakamura**	Verdy Kawasaki		
24	**Masayuki Okano**	Urawa Red Diamonds		

Japan

KAZUYA MAEKAWA

Date of Birth: 22-3-68
Position: Goal Keeper
Currrent Club: Sanfrecce Hiroshima
Height: 188cm
Weight: 84kgs
National Appearances: 12
Goals: 0

YUTAKA AKITA



Date of Birth: 6-8-70
Position: Defender
Currrent Club: Kashima Antlers
Height: 180cm
Weight: 80kgs
National Appearances: 2
Goals: 1

HIRROSHIGE YANAGIMOT

Date of Birth: 15-10-72
Position: Defender
Currrent Club: Sanfrecce Hiroshima
Height: 174cm
Weight: 66kgs
National Appearances: 12
Goals: 0

MASAMI IHARA

Date of Birth: 18-9-67
Position: Defender
Currrent Club: Yokohama Marinos
Height: 182cm
Weight: 72kgs
National Appearances: 82
Goals: 4

MOTOHIRO YAMAAGUCHI

Date of Birth: 29-1-69
Position: Midfielder
Currrent Club: Yokohama Flugels
Height: 177cm
Weight: 72kgs
National Appearances: 14
Goals: 1

HAJIME MORIYASU

Date of Birth: 23-8-68
Position: Midfielder
Currrent Club: Sanfrecce Hiroshima
Height: 173cm
Weight: 62kgs
National Appearances: 32
Goals: 0

TSUYOSHI KITAZAWA

Date of Birth: 10-8-68
Position: Midfielder
Currrent Club: Verdy Kawasaki
Height: 170cm
Weight: 67kgs
National Appearances: 38
Goals: 3

TAKUYA TAKAGI

Date of Birth: 12-11-67
Position: Forward
Currrent Club: Sanfrecce Hiroshima
Height: 188cm
Weight: 82kgs
National Appearances: 33
Goals: 14

KAZUYOSHI MIURA

Date of Birth: 26-2-67
Position: Forward
Currrent Club: Verdy Kawasaki
Height: 175cm
Weight: 72kgs
National Appearances: 52
Goals: 29

ANOKI SOMA

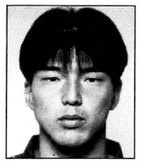
Date of Birth: 19-7-71
Position: Defender
Currrent Club: Kashima Antlers
Height: 175cm
Weight: 72kgs
National Appearances: 9
Goals: 0

Player Profiles

KENTARO HAYASHI

Date of Birth: 29-8-72
Position: Defender
Currrent Club: Verdy Kawasaki
Height: 172cm
Weight: 72kgs
National Appearances:
Goals: 0

HIROSHI NANAMI



Date of Birth: 29-11-72
Position: Midfielder
Currrent Club: Jubilo Iwata
Height: 176cm
Weight: 68kgs
National Appearances: 2
Goals: 2

HIROAKI MORISHIMA

Date of Birth: 30-4-72
Position: Midfielder
Currrent Club: Cerezo Osaka
Height: 168cm
Weight: 62kgs
National Appearances: 9
Goals: 0

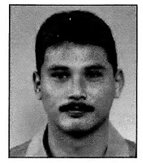
NORIO OMURA

Date of Birth: 6-9-69
Position: Defender
Currrent Club: Yokihama Marinos
Height: 180cm
Weight: 75kgs
National Appearances: 4
Goals: 0

MASAHARU SUZUKI

Date of Birth: 3-8-70
Position: Defender
Currrent Club: Yokohama Marinos
Height: 168cm
Weight: 63kgs
National Appearances: 1
Goals: 0

NOBUYUKI KOJIMA



Date of Birth: 17-1-66
Position: Goal Keeper
Currrent Club: Bellmare Hiratsuka
Height: 187cm
Weight: 85kgs
National Appearances: 3
Goals: 0

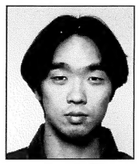
SHINKICHI KIKUCHI

Date of Birth: 12-4-67
Position: Goal Keeper
Currrent Club: Verdy Kawasaki
Height: 181cm
Weight: 75kgs
National Appearances: 7
Goals: 0

KENTARO SAWADA

Date of Birth: 15-5-70
Position: Defender
Currrent Club: Kashiwa Reysol
Height: 170cm
Weight: 62kgs
National Appearances: 2
Goals: 0

YASUTO HONDA



Date of Birth: 25-6-69
Position: Midfielder
Currrent Club: Kashima Antlers
Height: 166cm
Weight: 64kgs
National Appearances: 2
Goals: 0

TADASHI NAKAMURA

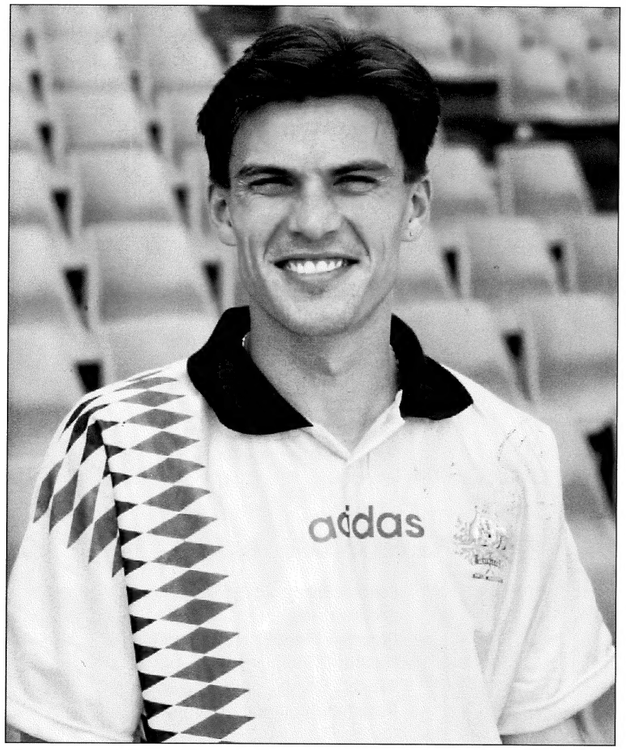
Date of Birth: 10-6-71
Position: Defender
Currrent Club: Verdy Kawasaki
Height: 175cm
Weight: 70kgs
National Appearances: 3
Goals: 0

MASAYUKI OKANO

Date of Birth: 25-7-72
Position: Forward
Currrent Club: Urawa Red Diamonds
Height: 175cm
Weight: 64kgs
National Appearances: 3
Goals: 0

Milan Blagojevic: Star Quality

A handsome man who was runner-up in Cleo Magazine's Bachelor of the Year last year, Milan is equally described by national coach Eddie Thomson as a player who stands out in the Ericsson Cup like a sore thumb because of his enormous ability which will eventually take him back to soccer in Europe.



Some 25 years ago Dusan Blagojevic and his wife Ranka had to make a decision about their future when Mr. Blagojevic Snr. completed his compulsory Army service. The decision was to migrate to Australia with their two very young children, Rosa and Milan, and therefore their new life started in a hostel at Villawood in Sydney.

It was here young Milan, age one, started his life in Australia and went through a series of schools in that area in Villawood, Fairfield then onto Cabramatta before ending up at Cabramatta High School.

Always interested in sport, it was only when he turned 10 that he really seriously became interested in soccer, playing for his school and a club called Boys Boys. As his skills developed, he moved to the Avala club and played with the under-13's to the under-16's before reaching second grade and finally first grade at the age of 17.

Equipped with his Higher School Certificate, he moved to the University of Western Sydney to study a Business Degree. Fate, however, played its hand in his future education. His soccer ability carried him into the Australian Youth Team and he played in the qualifiers in Indonesia and Syria and Fiji before progressing to the monumental team which finally went to the Barcelona Olympics. Not having sufficient credit points to defer, he was forced to give up his academic career but in turn gained the honour of being one of a team which produced some of Australia's best results by coming fourth at the Barcelona Olympic Games.

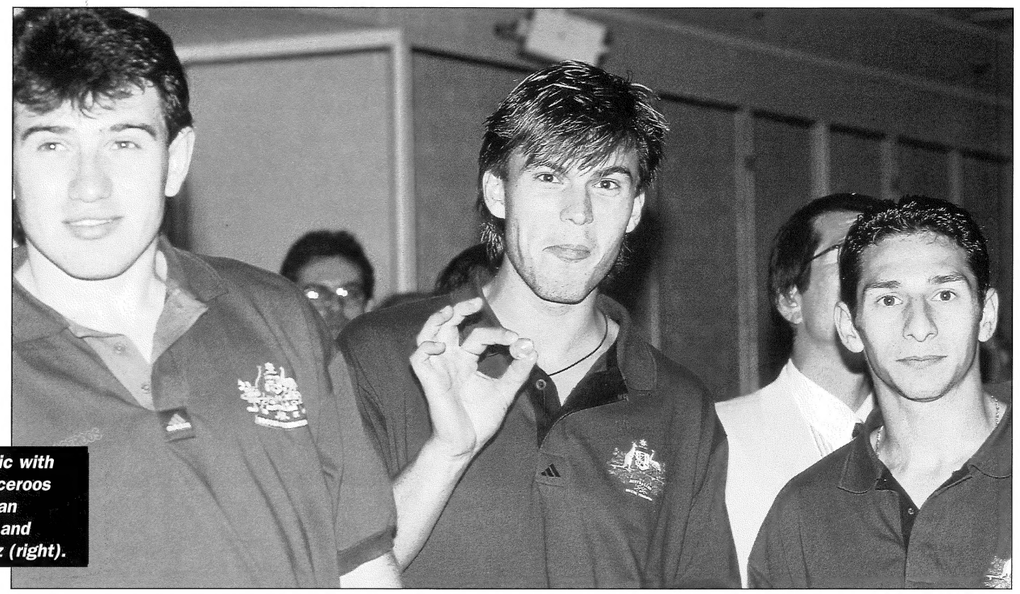
He joined Apia-Leichhardt and was with them for two years but played three seasons because this was the time of the change-over from winter to summer soccer. He had a further season with Marconi-Fairfield in 1991-92.

While in Barcelona with the *Coca-Cola* Olyroos, he was approached, as were many other players, by scouts to sign European contracts. He did in fact sign to go to the lowly Belgium Club Ekeren. With hindsight this was a bad move. Firstly it was the first time that he was going to live away from home in a strange country without much knowledge of that country; more importantly, the style of soccer played by Ekeren in those days was completely different from what he had anticipated. The skills which he had been taught and developed were literally not required there and the type of soccer played was more robust and more of what was in the past been described as kick and rush.

After nine months at Ekeren, he realised that his future did not lie there and when he was approached to go to Holland he willingly agreed. However his first choice in Holland had an immediate change of management and policy and therefore that transfer was unsuccessful. He was quickly picked up by Heerenveen Club in Holland to whom he is still under contract.

Once again, fate stepped in and he was plagued by a number of serious injuries including two complete knee reconstruction operations. His popularity with the Heerenveen Club was confirmed when the Australian National Team went on tour to Holland and Canada and he again met up with their officials. They, however, realised that he needed further time before coming back to them and allowed him to return to play in Australia.

He played the 1994-95 season with Heidelberg in Victoria prior to returning to live with his family at home and play with UTS Olympic. As a part-time professional, he also works as a Cable-TV technician but neither soccer nor his trade prohibits him from enjoying his tennis and golf and watching videos and

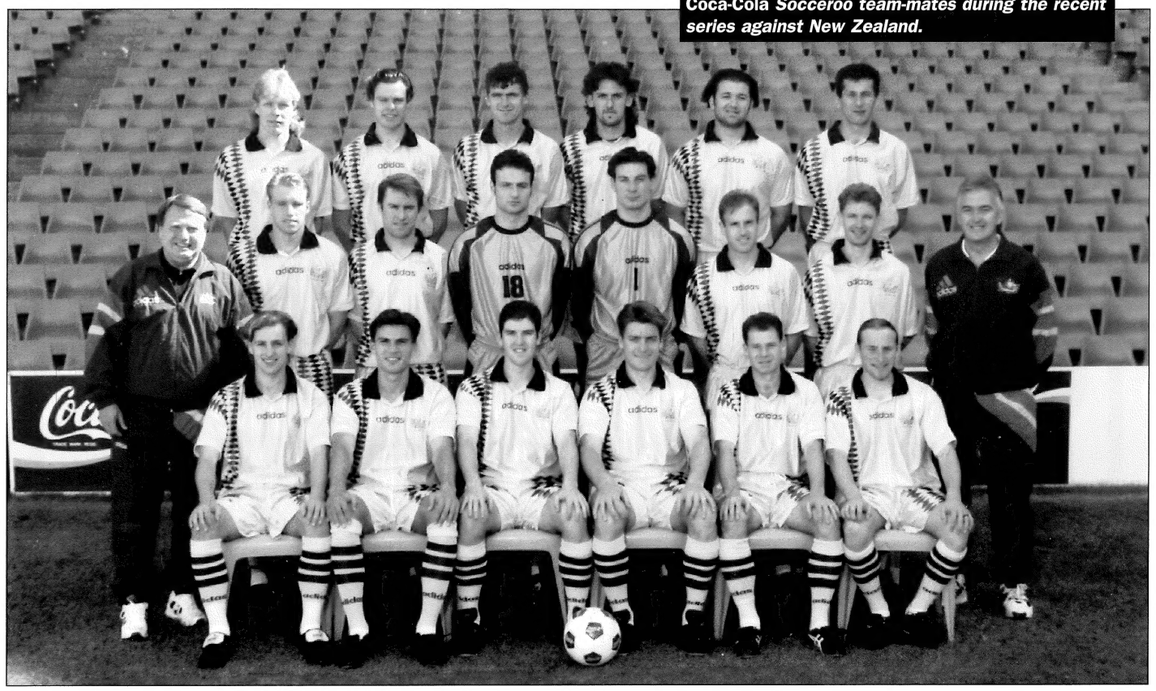


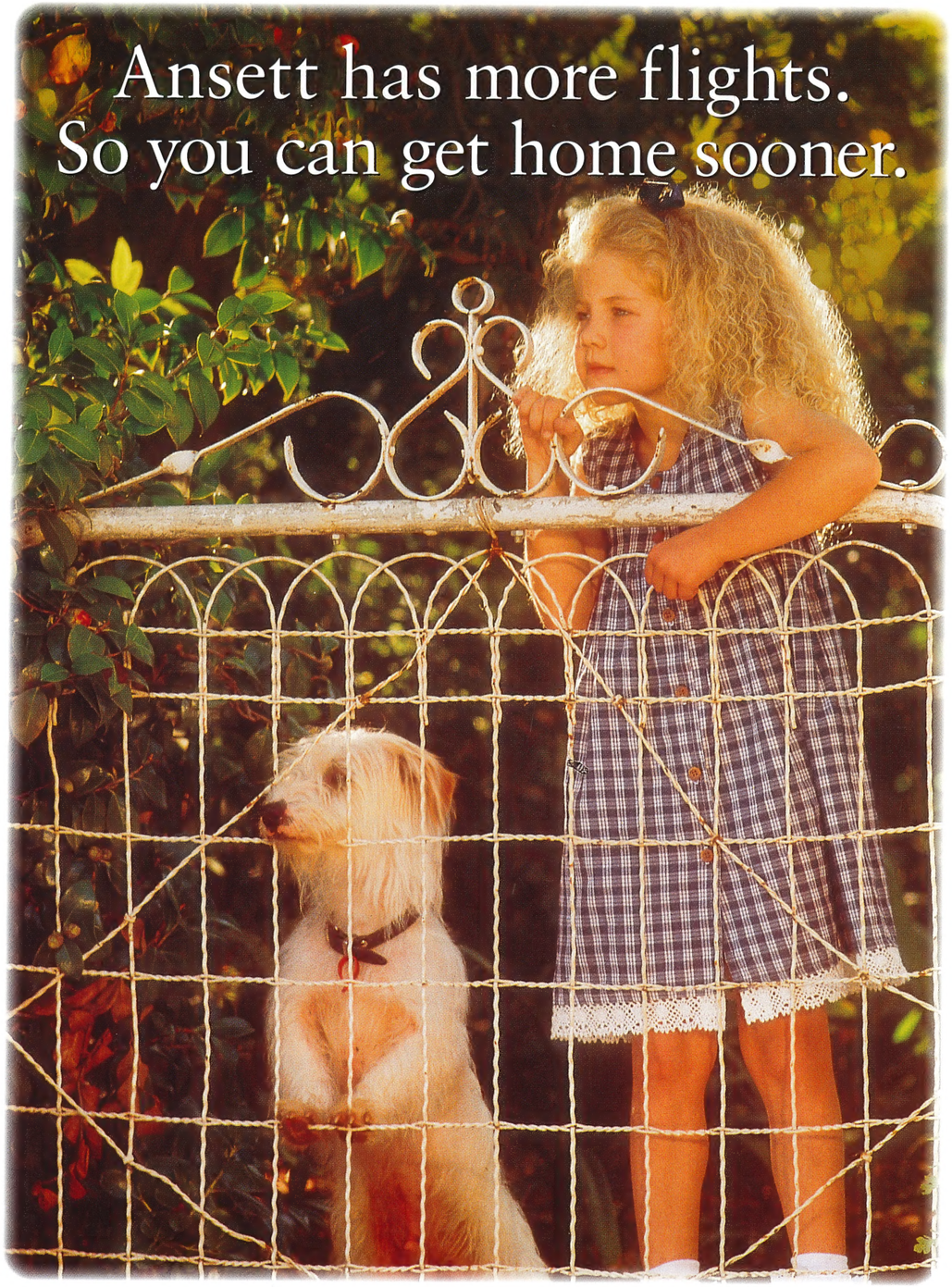
Milan Blagojevic with Coca-Cola Socceroos team-mates Stan Lazaridis (left) and Gabriel Mendez (right).

movies while saving for his marriage to his fiancée, Malina.

He has already represented his country on nine occasions after making his debut against South Korea in 1991. He is dedicated as a player who intends to gain his happiness and his living, particularly as he is now getting married, from soccer. There is no doubt that he will return to Heerenveen but we also hope that has the opportunity to continue his career in Australia with his friends in the national soccer squad.

Milan (front row, second from left) pictured with Coca-Cola Socceroo team-mates during the recent series against New Zealand.





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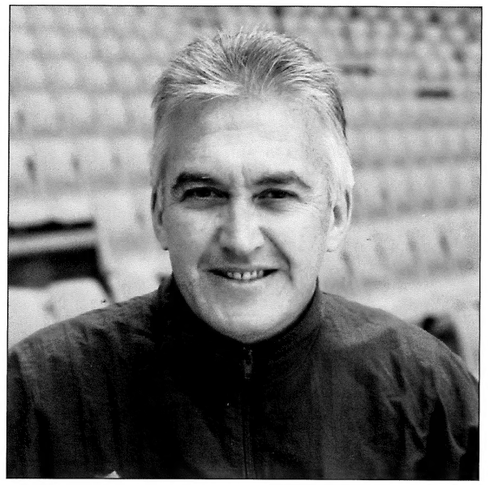


EDDIE THOMSON
(National Coach)

Date of Birth: 25.2.47

Playing Career:
Heart of Midlothian, Scotland (8 years)
Aberdeen, Scotland (4 years)
San Antonio Thunder, NASL (1 year)
Sydney City, NSL (3 years)

Playing Honours:
Scotland Under 23s
Scottish League

Coaching Career:
Sydney City (7 years)
Sydney Olympic (3 years)
Australian Staff Coach
Assistant Australian National Coach (5 years)
National Director of Coaching (1 year)
National Coach (since 1990)

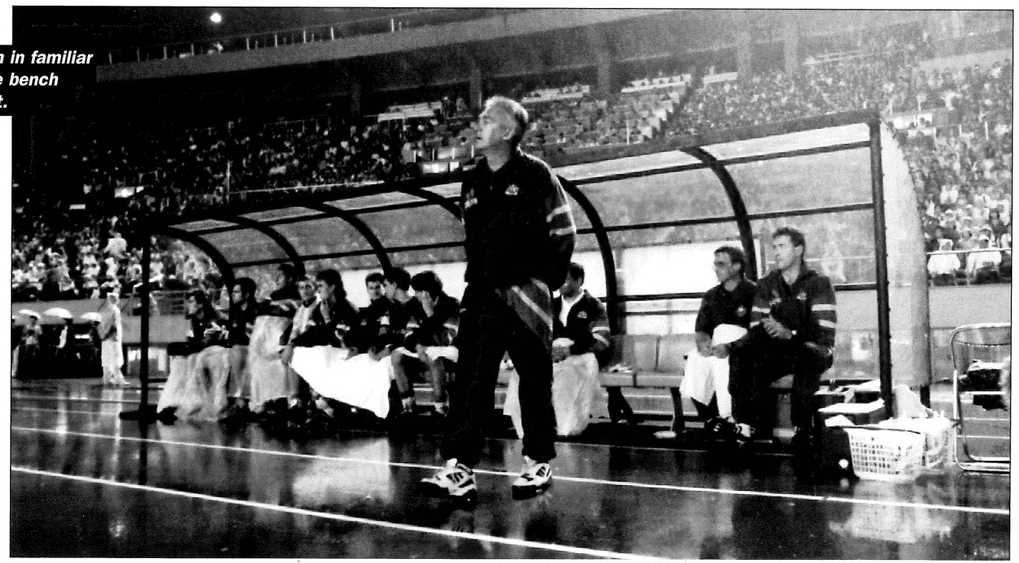
LES SCHEINFLUG
(Assistant National Coach)

Date of Birth: 1.10.38

Playing Career:
Sydney Prague (9 years)
Marconi-Fairfield — player/coach (2 years)

Playing Honours:
Australia (1964-68, 11 appearances)
Australian captain
Scored Australia's first ever World Cup goal
v North Korea in 1965

Coaching Career:
Marconi-Fairfield (1970-71)
Canterbury (1971)
South Coast United (1972)
Sydney United (1973)
Assistant National Coach (1974, including World Cup Finals) (1979-81)
National Coach (1981-84)
National Youth Coach (1981-83, 1986–present)
Assistant National Coach (since 1990)



Eddie Thomson in familiar pose — off the bench and on his feet.

A Talk with Eddie Thomson

Despite some minor hiccups the tournament for the Oceania region is complete with Australia qualifying for the next stage. We took this opportunity to talk to Eddie Thomson about the progress, in general, of soccer in Australia and the preparation for the future.

We first discussed the fact that the *Coca-Cola* Olyroos did not meet tough competition despite losing the final match to New Zealand by one goal to nil. In fact the *Coca-Cola* Olyroos scored some 50-odd goals and only conceded 2. We asked Eddie about this and what we should do and he pointed that there were problems in Asia, who have just taken into their competition the new Russian States. Having so many countries, they're not basically interested in Australia. It really therefore boils down to the fact of having to try and make the most of Oceania and just be the big fish in the small pond. For Oceania they have to play more games and more international games, friendly international games, to raise the standard of the competition. For the *Coca-Cola* Olyroos the point is to make all concerned realise that the competition will only get tougher and in no way can they be complacent about the standard of football required in the recent Oceania Elimination Series.

We then posed the question of how we in Australia can gain the experience for the *Coca-Cola* Olyroos to ensure that we not only maintain but improve our levels. Eddie Thomson's view is that, between now and Atlanta, we must try and arrange games against teams like Japan and Korea who are both excellent Olympic sides. We did this last time before we went to Barcelona. We went to Korea first and played two games and hopefully we can do the same again this time. Last time Japan visited here they brought their Olympic side and that was very good because it gave the fringe players the benefit of playing and a chance for us to look at one or two players who have since come into the team. Equally, matches will be arranged against stronger clubs, hopefully both at home and abroad, and therefore our preparation should be good.

We next asked whether it would be sensible, as the *Coca-Cola* Socceroos, we are now going to play Japan and Sweden to promote as many of the *Coca-Cola* Olyroos into the senior match to gain top experience. Eddie's response was that international jerseys do not come easily, and have to be earned. There will be four from the Olympic team picked in the *Coca-Cola* Socceroos' squad because they are deserving of the honour and as individual players raise their standards they will all be considered for selection.

We proceeded to discuss the level of Australian Soccer to that of the rest of the world and Thomson feels that we are well advanced and could willingly hold our own at most levels from the 17 year olds up to the *Coca-Cola* Socceroos. The *Coca-Cola* Olyroos, due to the weakness of the Oceania Tournament, might be a little under done, but the commissioners are arranging for teams from Japan including Red Diamond. Extra fixtures are possible from teams who are qualifying for Atlanta in both Asia and Europe, who in turn will be looking to further enhance their own prospects. There will be ample opportunity for a large number of matches for further development.

We briefly talked about the Barcelona Olympics and the exodus overseas of a large quantity of Australian players. This is again seen as a strong possibility because of the development of players like Tiatto, Lozanovski and Spiteri, but that should not in any way affect future Australian representation by these players.

We raised the point of how the national coach felt about his success being copied by other sides in development and tactics and whether by maintaining these tactics they would become familiar to the opposition and thus be readily countered. Eddie pointed out that domestically the national team's tactics have been copied; and whereas they originally had Yankos style defence, when they changed it to bring Zelic in as a sweeper this was soon followed. As far as overseas and tactics becoming too familiar, development was constantly on the way here in Australia and though it might only be subtly noticed the changes and plans were equally constant and varied. Therefore over the past five years the style altered not only for the purposes that we raised but also to keep up with the times in World Soccer. By the very physical stature of our players we are able to develop a style which the Japanese or Koreans are unable to follow.

One of the essentials in selecting a style of play is that the players are capable of performing it but at the same time appreciate the different styles of, shall we say, Britain, Holland, Germany and Spain. They are all different, to say nothing of the styles put forward by the Americans. In other words, one has to be able to defend against those styles while utilising one's own style, in particular for attack.

Overall the situation is very healthy and the teams continue to improve. Gone are the days when teams picked themselves. Now one must contend for position.

Progress overall can be seen year by year, because when we played Japan last time in February 1995, that is the *Coca-Cola* Olyroos, six of that squad have now developed and are playing overseas.

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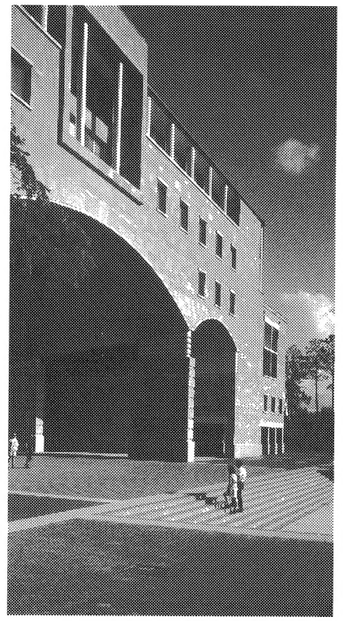

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D O N ' T C O M P R O M I S E

Refereeing in Australia

The question of quality is raised in all sports when referring to arbitrators, referees or umpires . . . usually a very controversial subject.

It is absolutely essential for the development of Soccer in Australia that as much attention is paid to referees as players, from junior to international level, so that we can rank with the best in the world.

Soccer enjoys a huge level of support at junior level: over 500,000 players take to the field each weekend during the season. These matches are controlled by just over 5,000 referees and herein lies a problem.

Like all sports, worldwide, the ratio of players to referees is disproportionate. As a code we need more referees and we want them to be better at their job.

The Referees' Development Program of Soccer Australia is addressing the needs of referees at all levels. It provides for the recreational referee who just wishes to enjoy a weekend game of soccer right through to the international standard match official.

Specialist training programs are in place for future elite referees and linesmen as well as inspectors and coaches.

As Australia becomes more clearly established on the world stage the opportunities for our match officials will continue to expand. This will be coupled with an improved level of performance as the training opportunities for referees continue to evolve.

Jack Taylor, the great English referee who controlled the 1974 World Cup Final, said of his first game:

'I could not understand why anyone would want to go out there and be jeered and abused by the people who came to watch.'

But Taylor continued to referee. He continued to grow and develop.

This is the true story for all referees. Refereeing is about learning, about developing as a person. Not all referees can become FIFA referees but nearly all people can enjoy their time contributing to the game and developing as individuals.

Notwithstanding this, Gordon Dunster and Eugene Brazzle represented Australia as official Linesmen at the last World Cup tournament in America in 1994. They were given the honour of running the line more times than any other participants.

Too many of our ex-players retire from the game without considering the option of refereeing. It is not necessarily considered as an option and yet, for anyone, male or female from 14 years on, refereeing presents the opportunity to grace the playing fields of the world or to enjoy the pleasures of ensuring that younger players have the opportunity to enjoy a game of football.

Soccer Australia can provide you with the chance to enjoy another facet of our game; we can help you become a referee.

Just ring Gary Power on (02) 389 6099 and we'll help you take the first step.

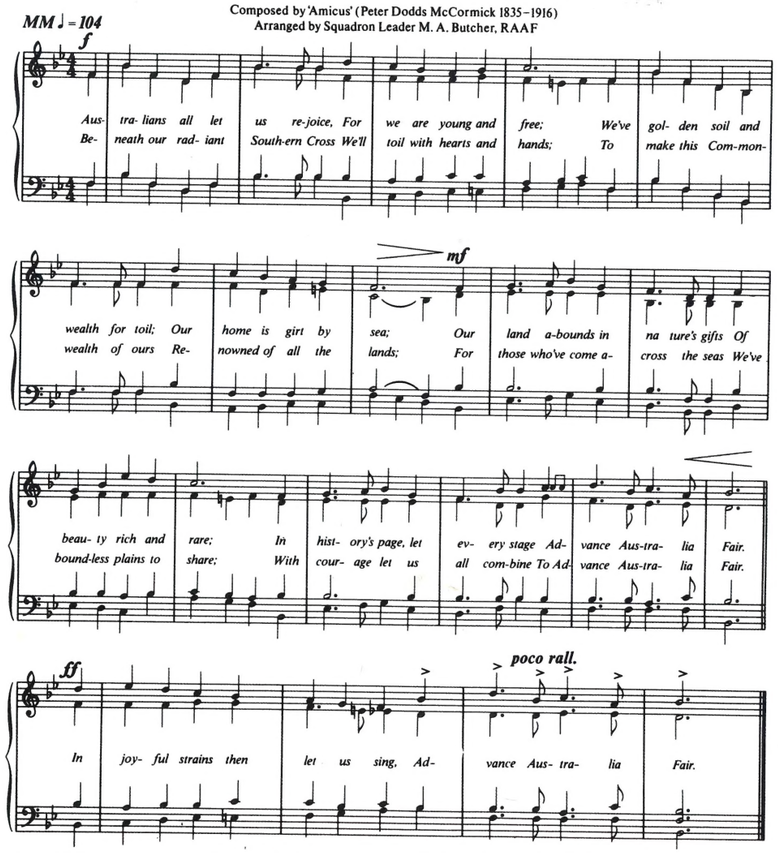
The referee — often seen, and sometimes heard . . .

National Anthem & Credits

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Advance Australia Fair

Composed by 'Amicus' (Peter Dodds McCormick 1835–1916)
Arranged by Squadron Leader M. A. Butcher, RAAF



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This is a **PLAYBILL** publication
PUBLISHER Playbill Proprietary Limited
1017 Pacific Highway, Pymble 2073.
Telephone: (02) 449 6433 Fax: (02) 449 6053

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